

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Chief, Estimates Staff

DATE: 7 October 1954

FROM : []

SUBJECT: Coordination Problems []

1. Conversations with [] this morning confirmed my suspicions that his people, in making their contributions to [] this time, had merely submitted the "Current Issues" sections from the O/CI Handbook series. [] stated that this was in accordance with instructions from the O/CI front office, that Sheldon contemplated eventually having the "Current Issues" sections of the Handbook series completely interchangeable with the non-estimative sections of [] and that preparations were being made to coordinate timing of the two publications more closely. [] thought the deal was all set up and expressed surprise that I didn't know about it.

2. This of course makes a certain amount of sense. Maintenance of both the Handbook and the [] material on a reasonably current basis represents overlapping responsibilities for O/CI, and it would be highly desirable to do the job once rather than twice. Unfortunately, the "Current Issues" section of the Handbook series differs quite substantially in length, scope, and general content from the non-estimative portions of [] which are actually more comparable to the Handbook as a whole. Thus, if O/CI continues to submit its contributions in this form, O/NE will have an unhappy choice between:

- (a) assuming complete responsibility for drafting and coordinating [] revisions, using O/CI contributions mainly for information purposes;
- (b) letting O/CI take over complete responsibility for the non-estimative sections of [] at the expense of a significant curtailment of scope and content; and
- (c) attempting to recast the [] material in more timeless and NIS-like form, leaving room for a "Current Issues" flier to be furnished and replaced by O/CI as deemed necessary.

Of course, an attempt might be made to merge the two publications, with estimative and other more sensitive material going only to select subscribers. This might work out fairly well for individual countries but not so for other estimative subjects. Or, depending on the feelings of the customers, [] might be dropped.

3. None of these possibilities appears very attractive, since redoing [] appears to be a useful but at the same time cumbersome chore, which should be kept as simple as possible. Maybe the only answer is to attempt to get Mr. Sheldon to go back to his original terms of reference and at least go through the motions of updating the [] text itself. In any event, let us hope we can get some clear understanding of what the drill is supposed to be by next time.

More in sorrow than in anger,

Bsr